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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (5/09): CALLS FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT
FOR PALESTINIAN SECURITY FORCE LAW AND ORDER MISSION

Main Stories:

The crisis in Lebanon leads coverage in all Palestinian dailies. Fears of civil war and a Sunni-Shiite conflict are major themes in the lead stories of Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's main headline highlights the death of eight people in armed clashes between pro-government and pro-opposition protesters. U.S. reaction to the violence in Beirut receives front-page coverage, with Al-Ayyam quoting White House Spokesman Gordon Johndroe stating that Hezbollah must stop its, "disruptive activities." Al-Quds cites a statement by the American Embassy in Beirut advising American citizens in Lebanon to limit movement and exercise extreme caution. Palestinian President Abbas' comments on the crisis is also highlighted on Al-Ayyam's front-page, quoting him as expressing, "extreme concern" over the violence and urging all sides to dialogue.

The dailies run highlighted coverage of Palestinian commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the Nakba (the Catastrophe). The reports accompany pictures of Palestinians events such as sit-ins, demonstrations and protest marches that were held in several cities in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as inside of Israel. The coverage includes reports on Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad's participation in commemoration activities in Ramallah. Israel's 60th birthday celebrations receive minimal coverage in the dailies which instead highlight stories about the investigations into corruption charges linked to Israeli Prime Minister Olmert.

Al-Ayyam front-pages a report quoting White House National Security Advisor Steven Hadley's recent press briefing on travel by President Bush to the region. According to Hadley, President Bush will stress

his commitment to the achievement of a peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that Egypt has agreed to open the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, for three days beginning May 10. The report also notes that Egypt is coordinating with the Hamas "government" on the action.

According to Al-Quds' front page, "Israeli police confirmed that they have moved a police station to the E1 area." The story, citing the Israeli weekly, Kol Haeer, notes that American officials have in the past shown opposition to any building in the E1 block because it would, "threaten the possibility for Palestinian expansion in the West Bank." Critics of E1 construction claim that the aim of development is to connect the Israeli settlement Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem, thereby effectively cutting off the northern West Bank from its southern half.

Thursday, May 8

Al-Quds' lead headline states that, "Cairo rejects the Bush suggestion to hold a summit to discuss the peace process if Olmert will not be present." The report quotes an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source confirming that the U.S. has dropped its suggestion to hold the four-way meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh.

Positive coverage of the visit by Quartet Envoy Tony Blair, to Jenin on May 7 appears in the dailies. Al-Quds highlights Blair's comment that, "achieving peace demands serious steps that will improve

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security and the economic situation."

Coverage of American presidential election campaigns appears on the front pages. Al-Ayyam carries a photo of presidential hopeful Obama under the title, "democrats are close to nominating Obama."

BLOCK QUOTES:

¶1. Independent Al-Quds runs its daily editorial entitled "Total support for the security forces"(5/08): "We all know that Palestinian security forces have started a gradual deployment to several West Bank cities that faces great difficulty. We also know that Israeli forces act... as though these Palestinians security forces do not exist... [these difficulties] do not negate the importance of the role of Palestinian security forces. On the contrary, the state of occupation increases chaos and lawlessness... it also creates an atmosphere that breeds corruption... the role of Palestinian Authority security forces is more essential now than ever before. The...[security forces] in Jenin were received with roses, hope and great expectations by the citizens. They called it the operation of, "smiles and hope,"... we should all support the Palestinian security forces... This will have a positive effect on our cause. We should also stand firm in the face of those who are seeking to make these efforts fail, regardless of their affiliation or justifications."

¶2. Independent Al-Quds runs its daily editorial entitled "The peace process in impossible circumstances"(5/09): "it is established that Palestinians want peace. They have chosen a peace settlement through negotiations as their strategic choice since Madrid... The problem lies not in the Palestinian position towards the peace process, but rather in Israel's unilateral actions. It occupies Palestinian territories, confiscates land for building settlements and the separation wall which have swallowed up thousands of acres of Palestinian land in the West Bank... the latest investigations into [corruption charges against Israeli Premier] Olmert will affect American efforts towards moving the peace process forward... the question is how American efforts by Secretary Rice and President Bush, himself, can move the peace process forward with an almost paralyzed Israeli government. This is like asking an exhausted horse to enter a race... "

